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5 JUN 1968 Ep, Dir/AM

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans

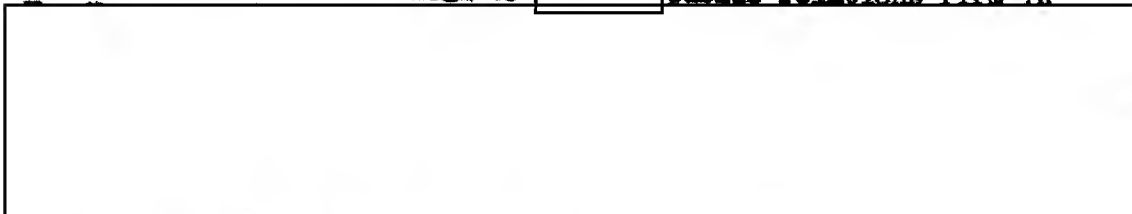
SUBJECT : Advice of [] regarding The Invisible Government

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1. This memorandum submits a recommendation for your approval, this recommendation is contained in paragraph 4.

2. [] head of [] public relations firm in

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3. He feels that the book [] but that it is even more damaging to the general reputation of CIA. He is inclined to believe that attempts by the Agency to defend itself are likely to be construed as defensive and self-serving. He is convinced that the White House is the only source from which an effective defense can come, and he urges that an attempt be made to obtain a presidential statement.

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4. At your suggestion I asked [] as an objective and informed outsider, to draft the kind of statement that would be appropriate. The attached draft is the result. Although it needs some revision, a response along these lines in answer to a question at a presidential press conference would certainly be helpful.

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Attachment:
Proposed Statement

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Proposed Statement By The President In Response
To A Question At A White House Press Conference

I have not read the book, but I'm generally aware of its contents.

I need not remind you that we of the free and open society owe a debt to millions of brave men and women who, over the generations, have sacrificed their lives for us.

To protect this freedom and the security of the nation is a primary charge upon all of us who serve our country. This has always required constant vigilance. In the world of today, that vigilance takes many forms -- including defense against well organized and unceasing efforts of those who conspire to weaken our nation all over the world, and to destroy our freedom. This eternal vigilance we propose to maintain to the very best of our abilities and resources.

In this connection I must remind you that the Central Intelligence Agency reports to me as President of the United States. It is a highly responsible organization of extremely able, patriotic and dedicated people. It is not all wise-or infallible, and it does not run the country. The CIA can rarely speak for itself, so I would not want to miss this chance to say that all Americans should be proud of the fine people who do its vital work on our behalf.